

**Executive Action Briefing**  
**ASAP Strategic Focus Area**  
**The Need to Enhance Law Enforcement Capacity to Respond to the**  
**Importation of Illicit Drugs and the Manufacture of Synthetic Drugs within**  
**Arizona**

**BACKGROUND:**

On January 22, 2008 the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) examined the strategic focus area of law enforcement and drug trafficking within the State of Arizona. From that meeting emerged a series of recommendations that will enhance the capacity to meet the needs of the law enforcement community and respond to the threat of drugs manufactured within the state and imported into the state from Mexico. ASAP will coordinate with its member agencies to implement actions to build the capacity to respond to the needs of law enforcement in their effort to curtail the importation and the manufacture of drugs.

**MISSION:** Prevent the importation of drugs and the manufacture of drugs through aggressive prevention and interdiction strategies by better securing our borders and prosecuting drug manufacturers and distributors.

**PRIORITY NEED**

**Problem #1:** Currently there is no funding analysis regarding costs or cost benefit analysis of current funding for law enforcement. There is inadequate information sharing regarding diverse funding streams acquired by law enforcement to combat drug abuse in the State of Arizona.

**Goal:** In order to assess costs and to assess program effectiveness, ASAP will develop a mechanism for ASAP law enforcement agencies to report all local, state and federal grant applications for the purpose of coordinating strategy, eliminating duplication of effort, to assess total cost for enforcement and to better target resources to problem spots.

**Recommended Action Steps:**

- ✓ Ask all law state and local law enforcement agencies to report grant submissions..
- ✓ Identify existing grant and contracts with all law enforcement agencies to do a cost analysis related to enforcement.
- ✓ Do a cost-benefit analysis of existing law enforcement strategies.
- ✓ Identify current funding gaps in manpower and technology.

**Responsible Agency:** ASAP will provide direction to partner agencies to include DEA, HIDTA, DPS, and DSAP.

**Problem #2:** The intelligence gathering and analysis infrastructure is inadequate to serve all law enforcement agencies in urban and rural counties limiting the state's capacity for intelligence sharing.

**Goal:** After examining state models for intelligence analysis, recommend the creation of a law enforcement intelligence infrastructure that will facilitate comprehensive intelligence gathering and analysis to avoid gaps in information and to better utilize resources and technology.

**Recommended Action Steps:**

- ✓ Survey state intelligence gathering mechanisms in neighboring states to identify model strategies and infrastructures.
- ✓ Conduct a technology gap analysis to assess technology needs to enhance intelligence gathering and intelligence analysis.
- ✓ Create a drug-crime map to identify targeted areas requiring additional intelligence and technology.
- ✓ Identify protocols and procedures for gathering information from rural and urban counties and establish appropriate structures for sharing intelligence.
- ✓ Add National Guard to ASAP to enhance the Guard's participation in drug intelligence and intervention activities.
- ✓ Develop capacity to analyze purity and price levels of all illegal narcotics and distribute results to all state law enforcement agencies.

**Responsible Agency:** DPS, HIDTA, and Other Federal Partners

**Problem #3:** Drug Endangered Children Guidelines need to be enhanced in order to facilitate information sharing, create policy and program consistency in the diverse counties and to direct appropriate prevention and treatment services to families.

**Goal:** Establish unified guidelines and strategies to enhance better intervention strategies with parents and families.

**Recommended Action Steps:**

- ✓ Examine model guidelines and assess their capacity for Arizona, this should be done in concert with the National DEC initiatives.
- ✓ Convene relevant agencies to work with Law Enforcement to provide consistent guidelines for family intervention with drug exposed children and families.

**Responsible Agency:** DES, DPS, The Attorney General

**Problem # 4:** The border between Arizona and Mexico accounts for over 40% of the illicit drugs coming into Arizona.

**Goal:** Examine strategies to enhance border security in order to prevent to entry of illegal drugs into Arizona.

**Recommended Action Steps**

- ✓ Research and conduct a cost analysis to provide secondary check points at critical transit points in Arizona.
- ✓ Examine manpower allocations along the border to conduct targeted interventions.

Responsible Agency: DPS, The Attorney General, HIDTA and Other Federal Partners

**Problem # 5:** There is inadequate coordination and communication between tribal and non-tribal law enforcement agencies in Arizona

**Goal:** Develop communication and operational protocols between tribal law enforcement and non-tribal law enforcement to strengthen prevention and intervention policies to collaborate on all strategies related to the manufacture, possession and use of drugs.

**Recommended Action Steps**

- ✓ Facilitate a meeting between tribal and non-tribal law enforcement to identify barriers to collaboration and recommend solutions.
- ✓ Look at other protocols and procedures established by states with significant tribal populations.
- ✓ Develop communication strategy to demonstrate collaboration between tribal and non-tribal law enforcement.

Responsible Agency: ICIN, State and Federal partners.